

IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please AMEND claims 17-21 in accordance with the following:

1-16. (CANCELLED)

17. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A system using ATM packetscells comprising:
means for outputting a first ATM packetcell and a second ATM packetcell, each ATM packetcell including communication information of a channel in a part of a payload;
means for inputting the first ATM packetcell and the second ATM packetcell and extracting the communication information from the payload of the first ATM packetcell and the second ATM packetcell;
means for multiplexing the communication information, channel identification information of the communication information and information indicative of lengths of the communication information of the first ATM packetcell and the second ATM packetcell, both of the ATM packetscells being transferred to a same node and having different channel identification information, into a payload of a new ATM packetcell; and
means for outputting the new ATM packetcell.

18. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A system using ATM packetscells comprising:
means for outputting a first ATM packetcell and a second ATM packetcell, each ATM packetcell including communication information of a channel in a part of a payload;
means for inputting the first ATM packetcell and the second ATM packetcell and extracting the communication information from the payload of each of the first ATM packetcell and the second ATM packetcell;
means for multiplexing the communication information, channel identification information of the communication information and information indicative of lengths of the communication information of the first ATM packetcell and the second ATM packetcell, both of the ATM packetscells being transferred to a same node and having same channel Identification information, into a payload of a new ATM packetcell; and

means for outputting the new ATM packetcell.

19. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A multiplexing device in a system using ATM packetcells including means for outputting a first ATM packetcell and a second ATM packetcell, each ATM packetcell including communication information of a channel in a part of a payload, the multiplexing device comprising:

means for inputting the first ATM packetcell and the second ATM packetcell and extracting the communication information from the payload of each of the first ATM packetcell and the second ATM packetcell;

means for multiplexing the communication information, channel identification information of the communication information and information indicative of lengths of the communication information of the first ATM packetcell and the second ATM packetcell, both of the ATM packetcells being transferred to a same node and having a same channel identification information, into a payload of a new ATM packetcell; and

means for outputting the new ATM packetcell.

20. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method using ATM packetcells comprising: outputting a first ATM packetcell and a second ATM packetcell, each including communication information of a channel in a part of a payload;

inputting the first ATM packetcell and the second ATM packetcell and extracting the communication information from the payload of each of the first ATM packetcell and the second ATM packetcell;

multiplexing the communication information, channel identification information of the communication information and information indicative of lengths of the communication information of the first ATM packetcell and the second ATM packetcell, both of the ATM packetcells being transferred to a same node, into a payload of a new ATM packetcell; and outputting the new ATM packetcell.

21. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A system using ATM packetcells comprising: a unit multiplexing communication information, channel identification information of the communication information and information indicative of lengths of the communication information of a first ATM packetcell and a second ATM packetcell, both of the ATM packetcells being transferred to a same node and having different channel identification information, into a payload of a new ATM packetcell, and

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a unit outputting the new ATM packetcell.